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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1954

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health. I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,

Sanitary Inspector. S.D. CROWLE, M.S.I.A.,

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1954 which has been prepared jointly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

The health of the community remained good and there were no major outbreaks of notifiable disease in spite of the cold and wet summer and autumn. The fourteen cases of whooping cough that occurred during the spring months were generally mild in character.

The principal event of 1954 was the coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act which requires the Council to prepare a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation and to state the numbers of such houses that we expect to be able to deal with each year. As no full housing survey has yet been carried out in the district, the means by which this essential first step can be undertaken had not been solved by the end of the year. Provisional figures for our first five years programme to provide accommodation for people whose worn-out houses we undertake to demolish within that period, must be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government before the 31st August, 1955.

It was with pleasure that we learned of the Government's decision to terminate meat rationing in July 1954. This decision involved the abandonment of centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food (for our area, at the Leominster Abattoir) and the re-introduction of the licensing of existing private slaughter-houses. In view of the Government's declared policy of restoring centralised slaughtering some time in the future and to authorise the provision of major abattoir facilities in comparatively few centres throughout the country cognisance had to be taken of this by the Council when re-licensing existing private slaughter-houses, because costly improvements at them might lead to claims for compensation against the Council from the owners when the official policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering was effected.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in acknowledging once again our indebtedness to the Chairman and Members for the encouragement that has been given to us throughout the year.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No. Leominster 2595.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	857
Population	1,860
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to the Rate Books) ..	628
Rateable Value	£10,364
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£43

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	23	14	9
(Illegitimate)	1	-	1
Total	24	14	10
STILL BIRTHS	Nil		
DEATHS	32	16	16
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	2	2	-

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	12.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.2
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births) ..	Nil
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	24.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	17.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..	83.3
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	25.5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

WATER SUPPLY.

No alterations were made to the public supply and the spring at Crooked Well, from which the supply is obtained, remained satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Examinations

Ten samples were taken during the year from the town supply of which nine were found to be satisfactory. In the other instance contamination was slight and the degree of chlorination was increased.

Although the Crooked Well spring met the needs of the town this year it was by no means a dry Summer, and it is very doubtful as to whether this source would be adequate during a very dry time. The Council would be well advised, therefore, to proceed with the supplementary scheme as soon as possible.

Connections to mains.

Total number of dwellings connected to the mains ..	595
" " " " supplied by standpipes ..	20
Number of connections to mains during 1954	11

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The new screening tank has been completed and in consequence the sedimentation tanks may be cleansed more readily. However, as the effluent is still below standard, it was decided to apply to the County Council for assistance to provide a complete new disposal plant.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The same system of collecting refuse is in operation - all refuse passes through an incinerator before final disposal.

RODENT CONTROL.

This service remains unchanged. One Rodent Operator serves the needs of the Kington Urban and New Radnor Rural Districts.

During the year the Council's sewers and sewage works were treated regularly.

Domestic buildings and business premises were also surveyed and in all 132 infestations were dealt with.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	31	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	27	68	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	33	99	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness ..	2	2
Inadequate ventilation ..	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences - Insufficient ..	1	1
TOTAL	4	4

HOUSING

Eight bungalows were completed during the year by the Council. Three other dwellings were erected by private individuals.

New sites for Council Houses are being sought but it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain suitable land for building. One wonders, therefore, whether the answer to the need for better housing conditions, could not be found by encouraging reconditioning and improvement of structurally sound, but sub-standard houses; though, of course, it must be borne in mind that there is a big waiting list for new Council Houses.

Four houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense. No demolition orders were made but the Council accepted written undertakings from the owners that the houses would not be re-let until they were rendered fit for occupation.

In three instances, proposals for the reconditioning of these houses were accepted, the work carried out and undertakings cancelled.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Five samples of milk were submitted for Biological Examination - the results were satisfactory.

There are three retail purveyors of milk in the district. All but one of these are producer-retailers and have no dairy premises within the area.

All milk is delivered in bottles, the old system of transferring milk from churns to cans, en route, and then to the consumer's receptacle, has been abandoned.

Food Inspection

Condemnation Certificates were issued in respect of the following foods voluntarily surrendered by private traders.

44	Tins of Meat -	55 lbs	15 ozs.
74	" " Vegetables -	26 lbs.	13 ozs.
87	" " Fruit -	97 lbs.	7 ozs.
14	" " Fish -	7 lbs.	
30	" " Milk		
7	lbs. of Pork Sausage		
4	lbs. of Butter		
3	Stone of Smoked Fillets of Fish.		
6	Stone of Kippers.		
4	lbs. of Danish Tongues (Tinned)		

All condemned foodstuffs are taken to the Council's incinerator and burnt.

Food Premises.

Total number of Food Premises (including public houses, Inns etc.)	47
Total number of Inspections	193

Four premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for the sale and preparation of sausage meat etc.

Six premises are registered under this same section for the storage and sale of Ice Cream.

After informal action two premises were provided with improved washing facilities, and one establishment has been asked to provide additional sanitary accommodation.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

There are two licenced slaughterhouses within the area.

All animals slaughtered are examined before being offered for sale.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	21	15	497	29
Number Inspected	21	15	497	29
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole Carcases condemned ..	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	19	Nil
Tuberculosis Only.				
Whole carcases condemned ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Congenital Tuberculosis ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Bakehouses.

There are six bakehouses within the area.

Forty-eight inspections were made throughout the year.

Two informal notices were served and the work carried out satisfactorily.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	2	3	1	8	-	-	-	-	14
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1954 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of ten males and twelve females who normally reside within the district.

During the year one new case was notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis; and two cases recovered.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26
Vaccination and Immunisation.

Numbers of children in the district who were treated during the year :-

Purpose of Injection.	Age at date of immunisation or vaccination.									Reinforcing Injections.
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 & Over	Total	
Immunisation against Diphtheria	12	9	-	-	1	5	-	-	27	39
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	12	8	-	-	1	-	-	-	21	-
Vaccination against Smallpox	23	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	24	4

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	-	1	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	3	-	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	1	2	3
18. Coronary disease, angina	-	2	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	-	1
20. Other heart disease	3	3	6
21. Other circulatory disease	2	-	2
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-	-
24. Bronchitis	-	2	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	-	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	1	1
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-
All causes			32